

# Annual Report 2021

Theatres  
Trust



April 2020– March 2021

*"This year has shown us the importance of community more than ever. We need each other and shared experiences. Theatres give us that. "*

**Miranda Hart**  
Theatres Trust  
Ambassador



# Theatres Trust

# 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

**Period ended 31 March 2021**

**Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance.**

We champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. We do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres, campaigning on behalf of theatres old and new and offering financial assistance through grants.

Chair & Director's report	3
Our purposes & activities	4
Our achievements & performance	5
Financial review	16
Our Ambassadors	18
Our Supporters	19
Our Trustees & staff	22
Impact statistics	24

**Theatres Trust**  
**The National Advisory Body for Theatres**  
**Protecting theatres for everyone**

Incorporating the Annual Report  
of The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund  
Registered Charity No: 274697

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# Chair & Director's report

**The Covid 19 pandemic has meant last year has been one of unprecedented challenge for theatres and the Theatres Trust's work had to flex quickly, creating a new one-year plan for 20/21 focusing on advocacy and support for theatres in crisis and providing additional advice to theatres and other stakeholders, alongside maintaining core and statutory activities.**

The Trust has been a very active advocate for the sector engaging with government through the Events and Entertainment Working Group and various sub-groups to ensure the interests of the whole theatre ecology were fed into decisions about Covid-safe practice, reopening and funding for both revenue and capital needs through the Culture Recovery Fund. Additionally we successfully argued for important changes to planning law to provide additional protections for theatres. The Trust was also a strong public voice for the sector giving interviews and being called upon to comment by a wide range of newspapers and on radio and TV, with 4,913 appearances or mentions across the year.

We provided much needed advice to theatres and saw a steep increase in the overall demand. We raised funds to engage an additional adviser to provide in-depth one-to-one support to theatre CEOs, a Skills Bank of organisations providing pro bono advice and a popular programme of webinars covering a wide range of issues, with over 450 attendees. We acted quickly to intervene where theatre operators went into administration, engaging with all stakeholders to find routes to reopen as a theatre under new operators.

We raised an additional £2.5m to support theatres survive the pandemic. This included £1.75m through the Save our Theatres Crowdfunder campaign which helped 80 theatres across the UK and £0.5m in grants to 92 theatres through our Theatre Reopening Fund and other funding programmes.

Alongside our Covid response, we continued to provide our core advice services and work as a statutory consultee within planning, offering advice to 153 theatres and responding to 296 planning, listed building and local plan consultations. Highlights include giving evidence in two important Public Inquiries and in-depth engagement with planning reforms in both England and Scotland. We also continued our Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme for a second year and were a lead partner

in developing the Theatre Green Book initiative which will offer theatres practical guidance on working more sustainably.

Theatres Trust also had to address its own reduced income from theatre rents and PP seats and some activities were cancelled or deferred in order to minimise losses across the year. However, with the exception of one staff member taking flexible furlough for a short period for personal reasons, the Trustees agreed not to furlough any staff in the year. The Trustees took the view that Theatres Trust needed to be as far as possible at full capacity in order to provide vital support to theatres during the crisis and agreed to allocate a small proportion of reserves to support this. This decision was reviewed periodically throughout the year.

As ever, but especially this year, we are extremely grateful to our many dedicated funders, donors, sponsors, Corporate Supporters, Patrons and Friends, as well as a large number of new supporters, whose generosity in what has been a difficult year for everyone, has enabled us to achieve our ambition to deliver much-needed support to the sector. We would also like to thank our Ambassadors who have been so helpful with fundraising and continue to lend their valuable voices in support of our work.

We are grateful to the Trustees who freely give up their valuable time to offer their expertise in support of the Trust's work and we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the staff team who have worked incredibly hard to deliver an unprecedented programme of activity in support of theatres in this extraordinary year.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to Tim Eyles who steps down as Chair after more than six years of fantastic service to the Trust. He has overseen an incredible transformation in the organisation's clarity of focus, increased stakeholder engagement, fundraising and overall profile, including the recruitment of 28 high profile ambassadors. He has also been a great source of guidance and strength over the last twelve months and the Trust is in a strong position to continue its vital work thanks to his sound governance and leadership.

**Paddy Dillon**  
Interim Chair

**Jon Morgan**  
Director

# Our purposes & activities

## The purposes of The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund are:

**'To promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the dramatic arts and the development of public appreciation of such arts, particularly by promoting the maintenance, use and better protection of theatres and places of entertainment for the benefit of the nation by all charitable means.'**

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund (Registered Charity No: 27469) was established in 1977 to support and deliver the work of the Theatres Trust, which was established in 1976 by Act of Parliament. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport appoints the 15 trustees of the Theatres Trust.

They provide the Trust with influence and are recognised as leaders in their fields. Trustees sit on the councils of both the Theatres Trust and The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund and are responsible for governance of both organisations. They meet quarterly and guide the strategic direction of the Trust's work, which is delivered through its staff team.

### Our Vision

We believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatres where they can be inspired by and enjoy live performance.

### Our Mission

We are the national advisory public body for theatres. We champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities.

We do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres. We offer financial assistance through grants, help people discover more about theatres and campaign for theatres at risk.

## Review of 2020/21

We are reporting our work in 2020/21, including our response to the Covid pandemic, against our three main aims, as follows:

### Advice & Planning

**We will provide the expert advice needed to enable theatres to be created, retained and adapted for live performance and to meet the changing needs of their communities.**

### Campaigning

**As the nation's most powerful champion for the cause of theatres, we will campaign to secure the future of the UK's theatres and to save theatres that are at risk.**

### Grant giving

**We will provide strategic capital funding to theatres to help them remain sustainable and adapt to future needs.**

# Our achievements & performance

## Advice & Planning

We will provide the expert advice needed to enable theatres to be created, retained and adapted for live performance and to meet the changing needs of their communities.

### Advice

#### One-to-one expert advice

Over 2020/21, we provided advice to 153 different theatres (excluding those which were subject to planning applications). Many of those theatres were provided advice on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

This included advice to 71 theatre operators/owners about issues arising from the pandemic such as accessing government support, interpreting guidance and preparing funding applications. We also provided support to local authorities and other groups about theatres that lost operators due to the pandemic. We continued to provide advice to theatres on other matters including building maintenance and capital projects. We also provided support to 26 theatres/theatre groups on the Theatres at Risk Register.

#### Supporting theatres through the pandemic

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, we refocused our work at Theatres Trust to support theatres to deal with the immediate and longer-term issues arising from the lockdown and restrictions. Continued support was offered to theatres in the interpretation of the changing guidance, approaches to reopening and governance issues. We expanded our free advice service, taking on an additional Specialist Adviser and created a Skills Bank to

match theatres with pro bono support from our industry contacts.

Thanks to funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation, as well as expanding our advice service, we ran a series of free webinars, covering topics ranging from theatre reopening, insurance and managing organisations in financial distress, attracting back audiences, theatres in communities and theatres as businesses. We also worked with theatres to develop a scenario planning framework to support business planning through uncertainty, which was accompanied by a seminar and advice note. These events attracted more than 450 participants, representing all operating models and scales of theatre from local authority-run, amateur, commercial and subsidised. The programme also enabled us to engage with a number of people and organisations for the first time, including a number of freelancers.

### Lighthouse Poole

The closure period put extraordinary pressure on the senior management of theatre organisations but some theatres took the opportunity to interrogate their business plans and strategy. With the support of Theatres Trust's Specialist Adviser, the management team of the Lighthouse in Poole explored scenarios and prepared themselves for a resilient future with the flexibility to face future development and artistic challenges. Chief Executive Elsbeth McBain praised the session with the Specialist Advisor "We can now see more clearly the strategic roadmap we need to create and will take some time to reconsider not only our purpose but also how we ensure the whole organisation understands what it is and how they are part of it." Through our Theatre Reopening Fund the Lighthouse was also able to purchase temperature sensors allowing the theatre to prepare for the short-term reopening while the organisation can also plan to the longer term.



### Rapid Response Programme

In the event of the worst-case scenario of theatre operators going into administration, we implemented a Rapid Response Programme, to open up conversations between administrators, freeholders, local authorities, campaign groups and potential operators to find ways to retain empty buildings for future cultural use. Thankfully only six theatres have been left in this position and we've offered support in each case.

### Theatre Green Book

Created during lockdown, spearheaded by Theatres Trust, Buro Happold and ABTT and led by Theatres Trust Deputy Chair Paddy Dillon, the Theatre Green Book has brought theatre-makers together with sustainability experts to set common standards for sustainable theatre. A cross-industry partnership, generously sponsored by 22 leading theatres, industry consultants and specialist suppliers and uniting all the leading theatre organisations, it has helped theatre-makers think creatively about theatre's response to the climate crisis, and define shared standards for the journey to sustainable practice. There will be three volumes focusing on productions, buildings and operations, which will be published later in 2021.

## Artrix

The first theatre operator to enter administration was the Artrix in Bromsgrove. The liquidation of the operator resulted in the freeholders taking back the building. The freeholder is an independent trust made up of representatives of a local further education college and local councillors. Theatres Trust has worked closely with this trust to develop sector awareness, good governance and a plan towards reopening. In collaboration with the careers service of Birmingham University, a consultancy challenge imagined possible directions for the new operation of the theatre and a public engagement exercise has begun to ensure the developed solution is a good fit for local needs. The theatre has been put to use as a vaccination centre while plans for its future develop.





## Planning

As a statutory consultee, the Theatres Trust's planning advice aims to safeguard theatre use and to ensure theatre buildings are fit for purpose.

We responded to 125 planning applications, 72 listed building consultations, 17 pre-applications and 3 appeals in 2020/21 across the UK, from Derry in Northern Ireland to Pitlochry in Scotland, from Abergavenny in Wales to Great Yarmouth in the far east of England.

These included proposals for a new theatre for Southwark Playhouse and the major refurbishment and redevelopment of the King's Theatre in Edinburgh, Yvonne Arnaud in Guilford, Hertford Theatre, the Troxy in east London and the restoration of Swansea Palace, (on our Theatres at Risk list) for a flexible employment space and community scheme. Other interesting cases included extensions to The Albany in Coventry, alterations within part of Pitlochry Festival Theatre to bring a storage facility into use as a studio theatre, a replacement scene dock for Edinburgh Playhouse, the restoration of Govan Lyceum to a performance venue, cinema and restaurant and redevelopment above Folkestone's Leas Pavilion which will see the venue brought back into use as a community facility.

We objected to plans to convert the Market Theatre in Hitchin into flats as well as plans for flats above the Finborough Theatre in west London, both of which were withdrawn by their applicants. Following our objections to loss of the former Westwood Theatre in Scarborough to residential use the applicant revised their plans to utilise the space for flexible community and workspace instead, which we were able to support. Along with the Twentieth Century Society and local heritage groups in Derby we objected to demolition of the Assembly Rooms due to a lack of strategy to re-provide large-scale theatre in the city. Planning Committee subsequently granted permission for its loss, conditional on a replacement scheme (not necessarily theatre) being permitted first. Other objections during this year included conversion of the unique Amulet Theatre in Shepton Mallet into flats, complete demolition of the Colchester Odeon and demolition of the Waterside Theatre in Holbury, Hampshire.

We commented on proposals related to Covid-19 including temporary change of use of the Oxford Playhouse to provide additional socially-distanced lecture space for University of Oxford and a change to licensing conditions at Scarborough Open Air Theatre to enable more events during the warmer summer months.

Of the 217 planning, pre planning and listed building applications and appeals, 195 were from England, 12 from Scotland, 9 from Wales and 1 from Northern Ireland, and we achieved a 100% record of responses submitted within the agreed timeframes.



### Local Plans and Planning Policy

Theatres Trust received 286 local plan consultations between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 and responded to 79 of these to encourage local authorities to include the protection and enhancement of cultural facilities in their planning policies. These include local plans, development management policies, area action plans, supplementary planning documents, and community infrastructure levy consultations. The Trust also responded to six neighbourhood plan consultations where the areas either included existing theatres or sought new theatre provision.

### Public Inquiries

We participated in two major Public Inquiries concerning planning appeals – one objecting to proposed residential development adjoining the Wallingford Corn Exchange and one objecting to conversion of the former Saville Theatre/Odeon on Shaftesbury Avenue in London’s West End for a hotel scheme with small replacement cinema in the basement. Both appeals were dismissed, representing a positive outcome for Theatres Trust. The Wallingford case represents defence of the first ‘Agent of Change’ challenge concerning a theatre, and the Saville case preserves the only opportunity to deliver a new large-scale theatre in the West End.

### Greater protection for theatres impacted by Covid

With concerns about theatre buildings left empty due to the pandemic, we were pleased that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government responded so positively to our proposals to make changes to the planning system to give greater protections to theatres. The changes have seen all theatres and music venues excluded from demolition or change of use under ‘permitted development rights’, meaning such proposals must go through full planning permission and Theatres Trust must be consulted as a statutory consultee. Previously this protection was afforded only to listed theatres or those in a conservation area. Additionally a written Ministerial Statement gave protection to theatres from change of use on the grounds of unviability where this is a direct result of short-term Covid impacts.



# Our achievements & performance

## Campaigning

As the nation's most powerful champion for the cause of theatres, we will campaign to secure the future of the UK's theatres and to save theatres that are at risk.

### **Making the case for support for theatres during the pandemic**

Theatres Trust worked alongside colleagues across the sector to make the case for theatre to government. This included ongoing conversations with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and our Director, Jon Morgan, joining the Entertainment and Events Working Group, which fed into the thinking on the safe reopening of venues. Our Architecture Advisor, Claire Appleby, was a member of various sub-groups set up to identify mitigating measures to allow performances with fuller audiences and to provide sector expertise to the DCMS during the Events Research Programme. This work has ensured that the concerns and needs of both volunteer-run and professional venues on all scales was taken into consideration when drafting guidance.

As well as our direct engagement with government we were also a strong public voice for the sector, commenting and giving interviews to a wide range of newspapers, radio and television. Across the year we received 4,913 press and media mentions. This work has ensured that the concerns and needs of both volunteer-run and professional venues on all scales was taken into consideration when drafting policy and sector guidance.

As the only organisation with a specialist focus on theatre buildings, Theatres Trust also highlighted the plight of theatres undertaking or planning

capital projects that had been delayed and seen increased costs due to Covid-19. As a result of this, the Capital Kickstart Fund was set up as part of the Culture Recovery Fund and more than 30 theatres, including Octagon Bolton, the Mercury in Colchester and Polka children's theatre in London, received funding to get their capital projects back on track. We were also successful in securing changes to planning policy to give theatres greater protection (see page 8).

### **Save Our Theatres crowdfunding campaign**

In partnership with Crowdfunder, Theatres Trust ran the public fundraising campaign Save Our Theatres, enabling more than 80 theatres to raise over £1.75m from more than 25,000 supporters to help them survive the pandemic. Theatres Trust Ambassadors including Alexandra Burke, Miranda Hart and Jude Law endorsed Save Our Theatres with other notable names supporting individual theatre campaigns including Dame Judi Dench, Shappi Khorsandi, Sir Ian McKellen and Jodi Picoult.

### **Theatres at Risk**

The Theatres at Risk Register lists theatre buildings across England, Scotland and Wales that are most at risk of being lost, but which the Theatres Trust believes have real potential for a sustainable future as working performance spaces.

The 2021 Register consists of 31 theatres, including one new addition – the Ramsbottom Co-op Hall. Due to lockdown restrictions, the 2021 launch was digital only, with a press release supported by a day of social media activity to highlight progress with theatres on the list. The story received more than 200 pieces of media coverage, including being syndicated by the Press Association to more than 160 regional and local newspapers, mentioned on ITV Granada Reports and a feature on BBC Radio Scotland.

Beyond the launch event, we supported Theatres at Risk throughout the year with advice and by raising the profile of their individual causes. This has ranged from initial discussions with potential new owners to highlighting the opportunities offered by these theatres to capital works advice, advising groups in the initial stages of formation to working

with local authorities and public funders to support these important community buildings. Thanks to funding from Historic England, Swire Charitable Trust and Pilgrim Trust, we were able to support six theatres through the Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme, funding early stage concept and viability works and providing organisational and governance advice. With continued support from Swire Charitable Trust and Pilgrim Trust, we are running the scheme for a third year.

## Ramsbottom Co-op Hall

Ramsbottom Co-op Hall was added to the 2021 Theatres at Risk Register in recognition that it is a rare example of its type, an important building in the history of the Co-operative movement and as it had been under threat of redevelopment. Our application to Historic England to have the building listed was successful with the Co-op Hall now having greater protection as Grade II listed. The case has also caught the attention of James Daly MP for Bury North and has galvanised a local group with plans to revitalise the building.

### Consultations

As part of our campaigning work on behalf of theatres we responded to national and regional consultations about Covid support, culture and planning policy. These included consultations on Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), Planning for the Future White Paper in England, government consultations on business rates, the impact of Covid-19 on the culture sector and the impact on local government finances, DCMS Committee Consultation on response to Covid 19, Westminster Cultural Strategy and GLA's Culture at Risk Enquiry.

### Contribution to industry events

We worked with our partners to support theatres during the pandemic and contributed to the wider debate on theatres, culture and placemaking:

The Arts Funders Network – Director Jon Morgan presented to a meeting of the major UK trusts and foundations supporting arts and culture about the current state of the theatre sector, the issues and needs arising from Covid and suggested priorities for future support.

Chief Planner for England's Roundtable – Jon Morgan and National Planning Adviser Tom Clarke contributed to a roundtable discussion about proposed planning reforms and how planning policy can better support arts and culture.

Community Leisure UK – Theatres Adviser Tom Stickland presented two member seminars on scenario planning and reopening examples.

Creu Cymru – Tom Stickland presented two seminars on scenario planning and reopening examples.

Greater London Authority Culture Roundtable – Tom Stickland delivered a session on scenario planning.

Speak-Listen-Reset-Heal – Theatres Trust sponsored and various members of staff took part in UK Theatre's anti-racism conference.

Theatre All Party Parliamentary Group – Jon Morgan contributed to planning for and attended regular meetings throughout the year, which focused on highlighting the impact of the pandemic on the theatre sector.

Theatre membership bodies meetings – Theatres Trust convened monthly meetings of all the major UK theatre sector membership bodies to ensure joint working to advocate for and support the sector during the pandemic.



# Our achievements & performance

## Grant giving

We will provide strategic capital funding to theatres to help them remain sustainable and adapt to future needs.

In an unprecedented year for theatres, we were able to raise additional funds so that we could support more theatres than ever before with much-needed grants, awarding 92 grants totalling £492,611 across four schemes. Our grants funded projects that make an impact to improve accessibility, viability and environmental sustainability of theatres, make theatres Covid-secure and help Theatres at Risk take the next strategic steps towards saving their local theatre.

### Theatre Reopening Fund

This new fund, set up in response to the pandemic, was made possible thanks to the generous support of funders Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust, Judy Craymer CBE, Soho Estates, The Basil Samuel Charitable Trust, The Foyle Foundation, The Mackintosh Foundation, The Pilgrim Trust, The Swire Charitable Trust, Theatre Royal, Haymarket and Theatre Super Auction. We awarded £301,873 to 75 theatres to make adaptations and purchase equipment to be able to reopen safely and viably:

Aberdeen Arts Centre, The Albany, The Albert Hall Theatre, Alhambra Dunfermline, Alnwick Playhouse, Barn Theatre, Beaufort Theatre, Blackburn Empire Theatre, Blackfriars Arts Centre, Blue Elephant Theatre, Bromley Little Theatre, Brookside Theatre, Canal Café Theatre, Capital Theatres, Corn Exchange Newbury, Chapter Arts Centre, Fife Cultural Trust, Gate Theatre, Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre, Gorleston Pavilion, Greenwich Theatre, Grimsby Auditorium, Hampstead Theatre, Hampton Hill Theatre, Hanger Farm Arts Centre, Headgate Theatre, Hull Truck Theatre, Hyde Festival Theatre, Jack Studio Theatre, Joseph Rowntree Theatre, Lancaster Grand, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Lighthouse Poole, Lichfield Garrick, Lowestoft Players Theatre, Lowther Pavilion, Lyric

Hammersmith, Marina Theatre, Middlesbrough Theatre, The Muni, New Cut Arts, New Diorama, New Vic Theatre, Northern Ballet, Oldbury Rep, Paines Plough, Peckham Theatre, People's Theatre, Phoenix Theatre Blyth, Pitlochry Festival Theatre The Point, Pound Arts, Regis Centre, The Roundhouse, Rutland Open Air Theatre, Seaford Musical Theatre, Sheringham Little Theatre, The Stag Sevenoaks, Swansea Grand, Swindon Dance, Theatre Royal Bath, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Theatre Royal Wakefield, Theatre Royal Winchester, Tower Theatre, Traverse Theatre, Tynemouth Priory Theatre, Upfront Puppet Theatre, Venture Theatre, Warminster Athenaeum, West Cliff Theatre, Wilton's Music Hall, Worthing Theatres, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre.



## Beaufort Theatre

Beaufort Theatre is a volunteer-led community arts centre in Ebbw Vale, South Wales, that provides opportunities for performance and participation in its 338-seater theatre, ballroom, studio, meeting room and café. The theatre received £3,370 through the Theatre Reopening Fund to carry out a deep clean of the venue and install hand sanitisers with associated signage, which will enable the venue to reopen safely.



## Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds

With a £5,000 Theatre Reopening Fund grant, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds, the last working Regency playhouse in the country, commissioned a secondary air handling unit to improve the fresh air flow to the building. Screens and hand sanitisers were also installed in the Grade I listed building to provide a Covid-secure environment.

## Paines Plough

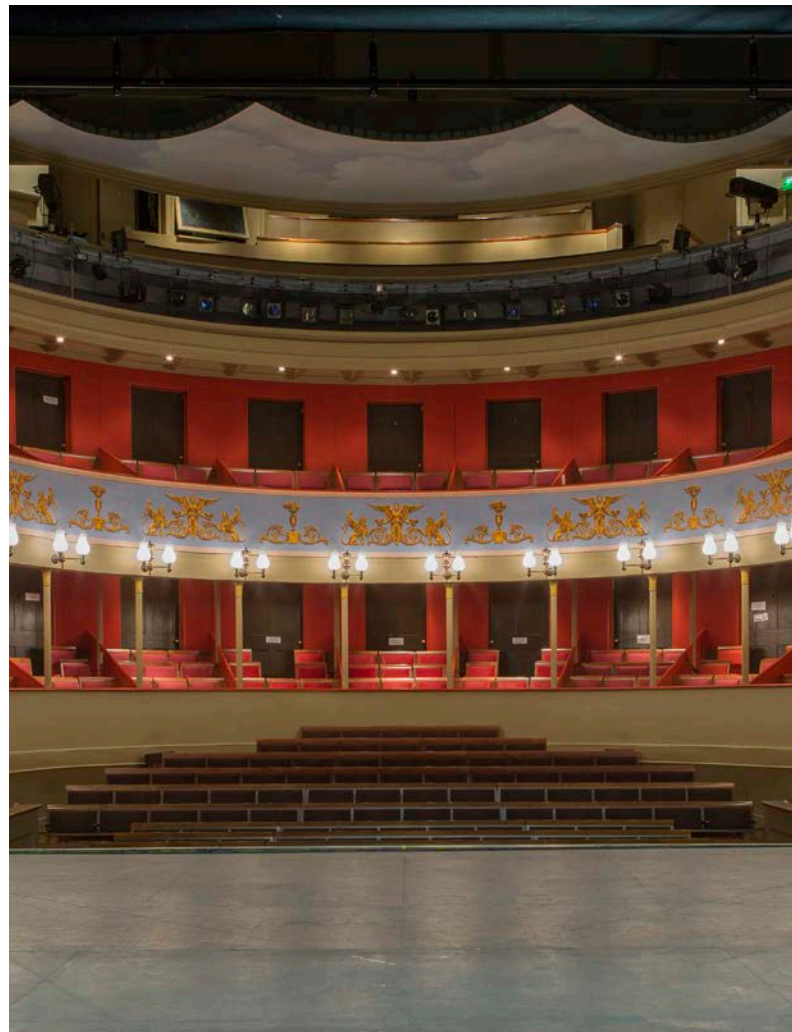
Paines Plough produces and tours new plays nationally using its innovative travelling theatre tent Roundabout, which had degraded due to the prolonged period in storage. A grant of £5,000 from the Theatre Reopening Fund supported repairs to enable the theatre to go on tour when restrictions lifted.

### Theatre Improvement Scheme

In the third year of the scheme funded by the Wolfson Foundation, the theme was 'Improving Environmental Sustainability' and we awarded five grants totalling £98,238:

Chichester Festival Theatre, The Georgian Theatre Royal, Lyric Theatre Belfast, The Marlowe, Northern Stage.

The Wolfson Foundation renewed the partnership with Theatres Trust with a further £360,000 in grants available over the next three years to help theatres improve their environmental sustainability.





## Lyric Theatre Belfast

Northern Ireland's only full-time producing theatre received a grant of £18,250 from the Theatre Improvement Scheme in association with the Wolfson Foundation to upgrade its Building Management System, giving the theatre greater control over energy management, allowing it to achieve energy saving targets.

### Accessible Theatres

Theatres Trust is grateful to the Theatre Investment Fund for supporting this scheme, enabling us to award a total of £25,000 to six theatres to improve their accessibility for staff, artists and audiences:

The Barn, Bristol Old Vic, Live Theatre, Mercury Theatre, The Spire, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre

## The Barn

The Barn in Banchory, created from an abandoned farmstead and the largest multi-arts space in Aberdeenshire, received a grant of £4,800 from the Accessible Theatres Scheme to make its technical control centre accessible to all its staff and volunteers. The control was housed in a booth within a confined space raised above ground floor level. Working with volunteers with disabilities the theatre designed and implemented a simple solution relocating the booth to ground floor level, making it more accessible and enabling the organisation to train more volunteers in technical theatre skills.

### Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme

Thanks to funding from Historic England, Swire Charitable Trust and Pilgrim Trust, we were able to support six Theatres at Risk with grants totalling £67,500 to progress work to revive their local theatre, including early stage concept and viability works and organisational and governance advice:

Brighton Hippodrome, Derby Hippodrome, Granada Walthamstow, Groundlings Theatre, Leith Theatre, Streatham Hill Theatre

## The Groundlings

Grade II\* listed, The Groundlings is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register as well as our Theatres at Risk list. We awarded the Groundlings Theatre Trust a grant of £19,000 through our Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme to support governance and business planning works for the organisation, and to undertake a new conditions survey for the building. The works have proved invaluable in strengthening ties with both Historic England and Portsmouth City Council and have since helped the Groundlings Theatre Trust in a successful bid for an emergency repair grant for the building. Helen Gibbs, Chair of Groundlings Theatre Trust thanked Theatres Trust for the support, "This [the repairs and better relationship with key stakeholders] would not have happened without Theatres Trust taking an interest in us, putting us on the 'at risk' register, giving us a grant and all the moral support you provided"

# Financial review

Income for the year across both The Theatres Trust and The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund (Registered charity No. 274697) was £123,363 lower for the year ended 31 March 2021 than in the previous year. This was due to lower Theatre Rent & Proprietary Seats income of £161,987, lower Conference & Events income of £69,861, lower Advertising & Publication income of £2,086, lower investment income of £3,694, and lower Resource

Centre hire, which was discontinued in 2019-2020, income of £12,393. However, our income from grants and donations was £126,658 higher than in 2019-2020.

Resources expended in the year were £57,221 higher than in 2019-2020. Theatre Protection Grants given during the year were £179,186 higher than in the previous year.

## The Theatres Trust

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
<b>Income</b>		
Theatre Rents Receivable	393	435
Sale of Proprietary seats	-	120
Conferences and events	-	70
Interest Receivable	-	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>Less Expenditure</b>		
Administrative expenses	110	143
Conferences and events	4	41
Other expenditure	5	4
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Surplus of income over expenditure</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>437</b>
Less covenanted payment to The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund	(274)	(437)
Less Taxation	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Funds brought forward	217	217
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
Accumulated fund	67	67
Capital Provision fund	150	150
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>217</b>

The value of The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund's investment portfolio increased during the year such that the market value of the portfolio at 31 March 2021 was £1,243,309. The relative performance of the portfolio was closely aligned to the general market trend.

In line with our ongoing strategy we will both invest some of our unrestricted reserves and continue to fundraise to deliver new programmes and to increase our overall impact. In 2018-2019 we designated £210,000 to restructure the organisation including additional staffing to deliver improved advocacy, marketing and fundraising and to invest in key resources including CRM, Archive and Theatres Database. The

year-end balance in this designated fund was £95,880. In 2018-2019 we had also allocated £125,000 of our own resources to match fund any grants we receive from Trusts and Foundations against an ambitious three-year fundraising target. The year-end balance in this fund was 97,709.

The financial statements for The Theatres Trust and The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021 are summarised here. Copies of the full audited accounts may be obtained free from the Theatres Trust. The auditors have given unqualified opinions on the accounts of both organisations.

## The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
<b>Income</b>		
Covenanted payment from The Theatres Trust	274	437
Administration charge paid by The Theatres Trust	110	143
Historic England Grant	40	40
Other grants and donations received	523	397
Other income	59	77
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>1,094</b>
<b>Less expenditure</b>		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	1,102	958
Costs of generating funds	79	131
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,089</b>
<b>Surplus of income over expenditure</b>	<b>(175)</b>	<b>5</b>
Net gains/(losses) from investments	194	(77)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>(72)</b>
Funds brought forward	1,083	1,155
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>1,083</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
General Fund	220	220
Theatres Protection Fund	-	82
Other Restricted Funds	112	112
Organisational Development & Transition Fund	96	189
Match Funding Fund	98	98
Capital Provision Fund	576	382
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>1,083</b>

# Our Ambassadors

Theatres Trust is grateful to our Ambassadors for their support throughout 2020/21. Our Ambassadors are:

**Samira Ahmed**

Journalist, broadcaster and documentary maker

**Gemma Arterton**

Actress

**Alan Ayckbourn**

Playwright and theatre director

**Michael Ball**

Musical theatre star, recording artist and radio and TV presenter

**Pippa Bennett-Warner**

Actress

**Matthew Bourne**

Choreographer and director

**Jo Brand**

Comedian

**Dara Ó Briain**

Comedian and television presenter

**Alexandra Burke**

Singer, songwriter and actress

**Simon Callow**

Actor, author and director

**Jack Dee**

Comedian, actor and writer

**Mel Giedroyc**

Television presenter and actress

**David Hare**

Playwright and film-maker

**Miranda Hart**

Comedy writer and actress

**Lenny Henry**

Comedian, actor and writer

**Cassidy Janson**

Actress and singer

**Beverley Knight**

Actress and singer

**Kwame Kwei-Armah**

Actor, playwright, director and broadcaster

**Jude Law**

Actor

**Cameron Mackintosh**

Producer and theatre owner

**David Morrissey**

Actor and director

**Bill Nighy**

Actor

**Elaine Paige**

Actress, singer, producer and radio presenter

**Siobhan Redmond**

Actress

**Tim Rice**

Author and lyricist

**John Simm**

Actor, director and musician

**Meera Syal**

Actress and writer

**Andrew Lloyd Webber**

Composer, producer and theatre owner





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The many funders, donors, Corporate Supporters, Friends and Patrons of Theatres Trust are extremely important to our work, giving their time and valuable support. The Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given their support during 2020/21.

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### **We remember those Friends who have sadly passed away:**

Ruth Bowley  
William Hamilton Pearson  
Roy Hudd OBE  
Eddie Kulukundis OBE  
Bruce Rowling

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## **Tim Eyles** Chair

Chair of The Jerwood Charitable Foundation and of the Royal Society of Arts, and former Managing Partner at Taylor Wessing.

## **Richard Baldwin**

Chartered quantity surveyor and currently Head of Development at Derwent London.

## **David Blyth**

Theatre and arts entertainment management professional and Chair of the Marina Theatre Trust in Lowestoft. (Retired December 2020)

## **Pam Bone**

Independent adviser for the cultural industries (Retired December 2020)

## **Paul Cartwright**

Chartered accountant and private equity professional.

## **Paddy Dillon**

Theatre architect, conservationist, writer and broadcaster.

## **Annie Hampson**

Former Chief Planning Officer at the City of London. (Appointed September 2020)

## **David Ian**

Leading producer of live large-scale theatrical entertainment (Retired June 2020)

## **Richard Johnston**

Theatre management professional, Chief Executive of Delfont Mackintosh Theatres.

## **Gary Kemp**

Musician and actor.

## **Simon Ricketts**

Planning solicitor and founding partner of planning law firm Town Legal LLP. (Retired December 2020)

## **Jane Spiers**

Theatre management professional, currently Chief Executive of Aberdeen Performing Arts (Appointed September 2020)

## **Truda Spruyt**

Director at communications agency, Four Culture.

## **Anna Stapleton**

Arts management professional. (Retired May 2020)

## **Katie Town**

Theatre management professional, currently Executive Director of Theatre Royal Wakefield (Appointed September 2020)

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### **John Earl**

### **Jonathan Lane**

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**Claire Appleby** Architecture Adviser

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**Kate Carmichael** Communications Coordinator

**Tom Clarke** National Planning Adviser

**Justine Harvey** Marketing & Communications Manager

**Ashish Shah** Finance Manager

**Tom Stickland** Theatres Adviser

**Sarah Walsh** General Manager, until June 2020

## Consultants

**David Jubb** Specialist Adviser

**Mark Price** Heritage Consultant

**Nicky Rowland** Sponsorship and Advertising Consultant

## Volunteers

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Pg 8: Former Saville theatre. Credit Ian Grundy

Pg 10: Great Yarmouth Hippodrome. Courtesy of the theatre

Pg 11: Paines Plough Roundabout touring theatre. Courtesy of the theatre

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# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



In 2020/21

# £2.5 million

We raised almost £2.5m to provide direct support to theatres affected by the Covid pandemic

## Advice

# 153

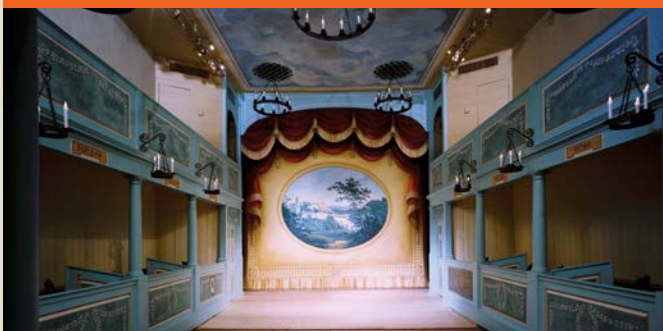
We provided specialist, tailored advice to 153 theatre organisations



## Planning

# 296

We commented on 217 planning and listed building applications and 79 local planning documents



## Grants

# £492k

Our Theatres Protection Fund has awarded more than £492,000 to 92 theatres across the UK



## Webinars

# 450

450 people attended our webinar series offering guidance to help theatres navigate the pandemic

